**December 13, 2023 Holden Evening Prayer 6:30 PM**

**ADVENT 2023**

**KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY**

**Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor 2650 Farnam Street**

**Shari Duminy, Transitional Associate Pastor Omaha, NE 68131-3616**

**H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor 402-341-7761**

**www.kmlchurch.org**



**GATHERING**

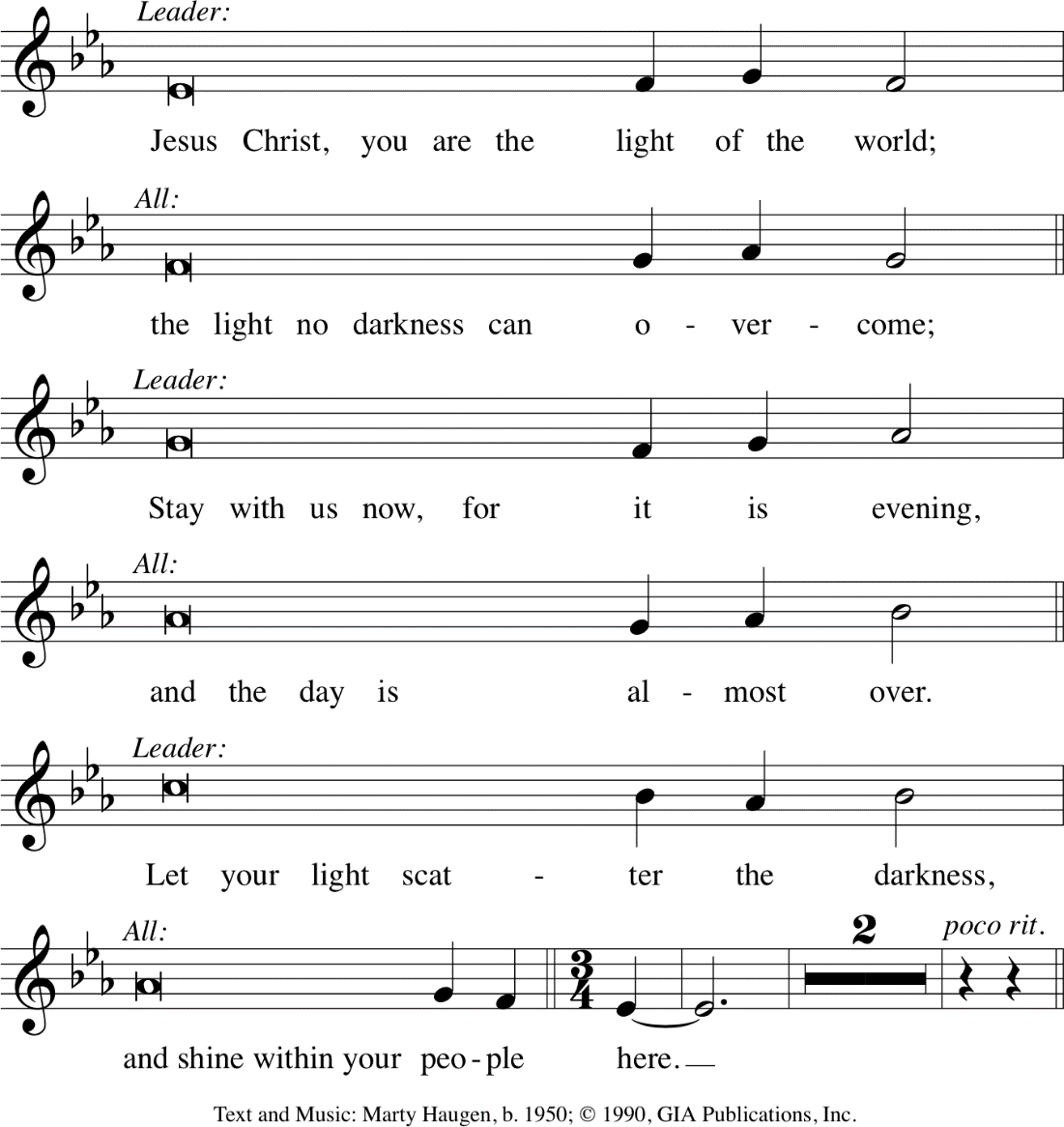
*We gather in silent meditation and prayer.*

*Rise and face the entrance as the service begins when the Sanctus bells ring.*

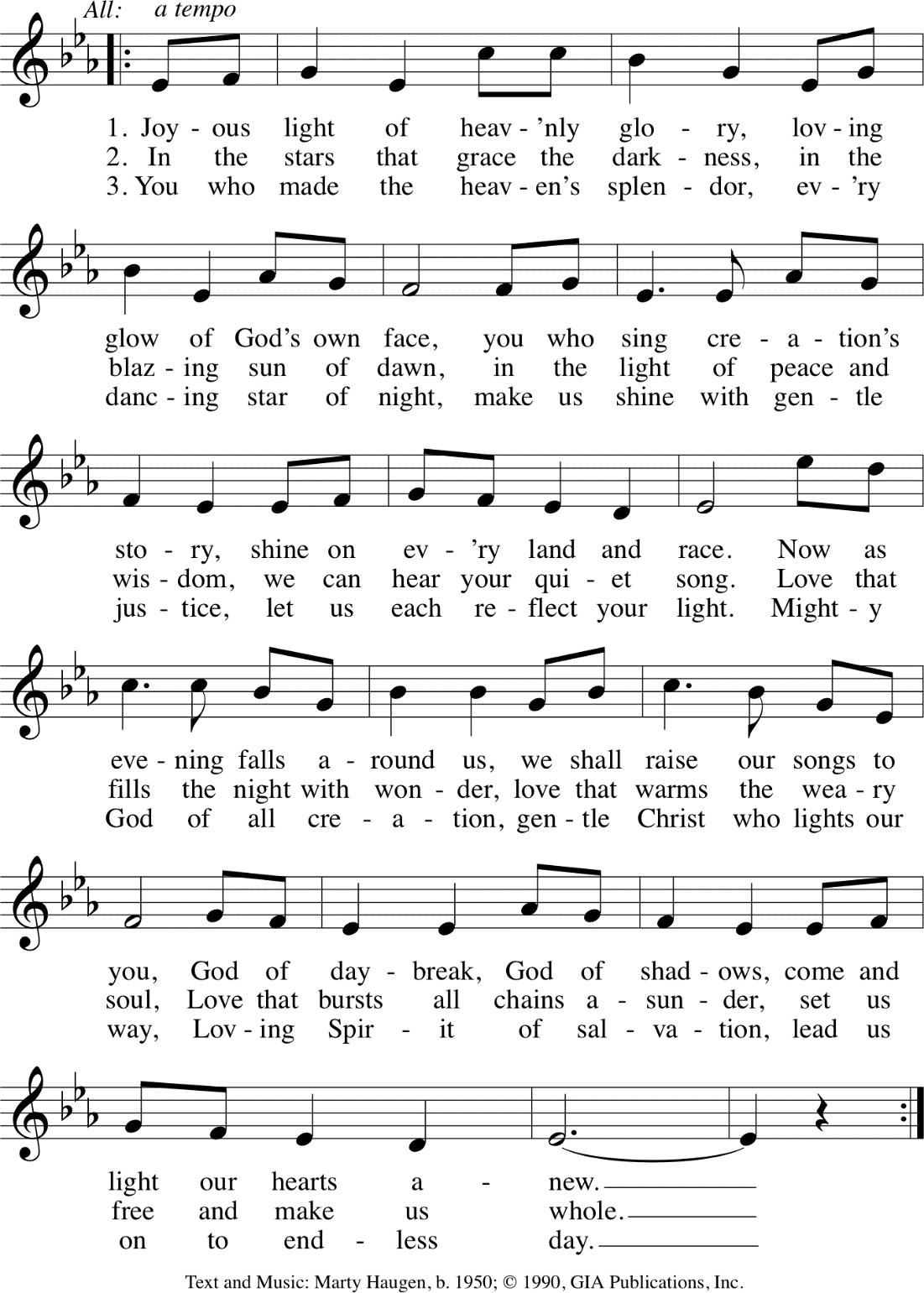
Mark Jones*, Organist*

**SERVICE OF LIGHT**

**PROCESSION**

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*Turn as the service continues with the Evening Hymn.***EVENING HYMN** *Joyous Light* Marty Haugen



*(sit)*

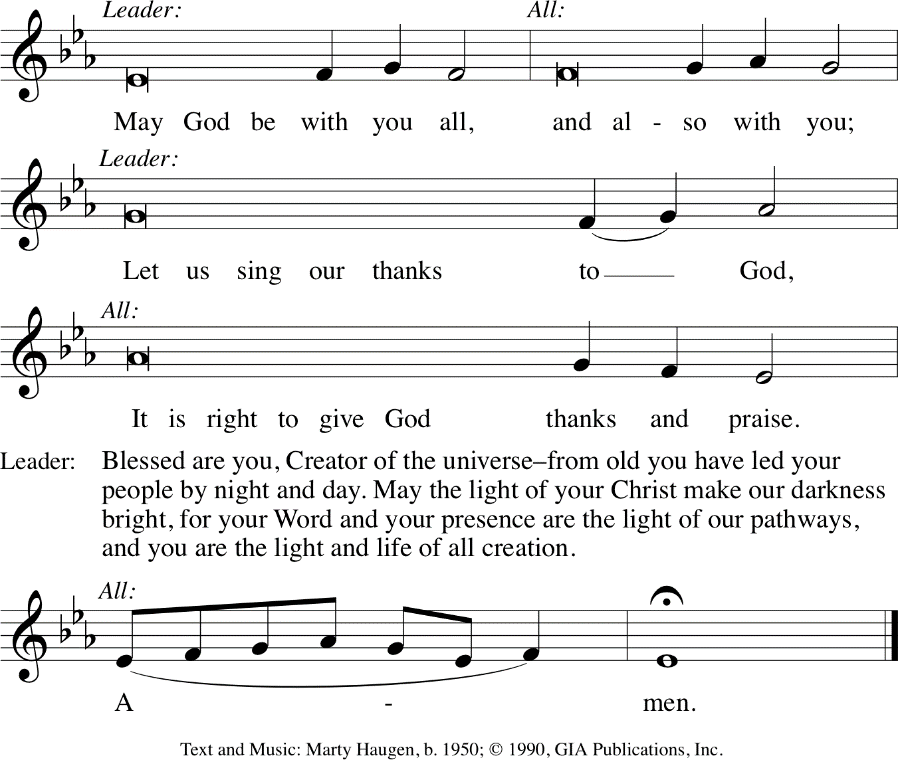
**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND PRAYER**

P By the light of this second candle we receive your *comfort now*. By your Spirit, may all of the pain and sorrow that we carry be shouldered by this beloved community. We are not alone, for you are with us and we are with one another. Through the power of mutual aid, we have everything that we need. Our *peace* comes through our willingness to share the abundance that you have given to us. In Christ Jesus, we pray.

C **Amen.**

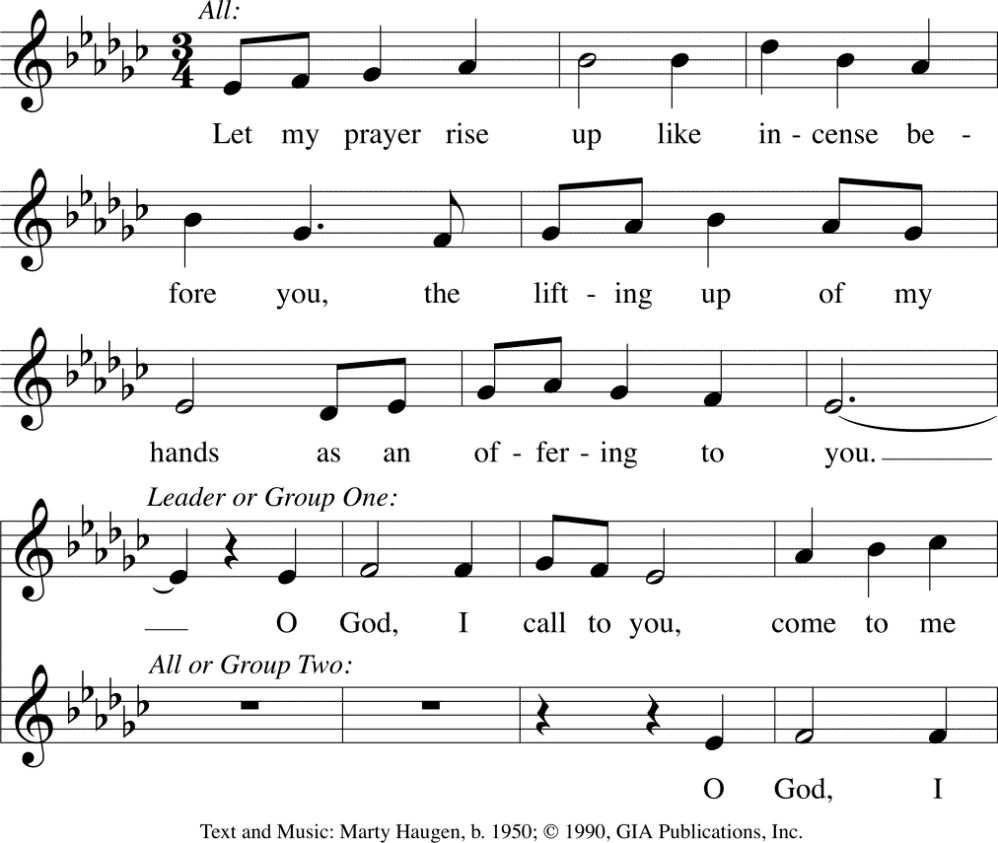
*(light two candles)*

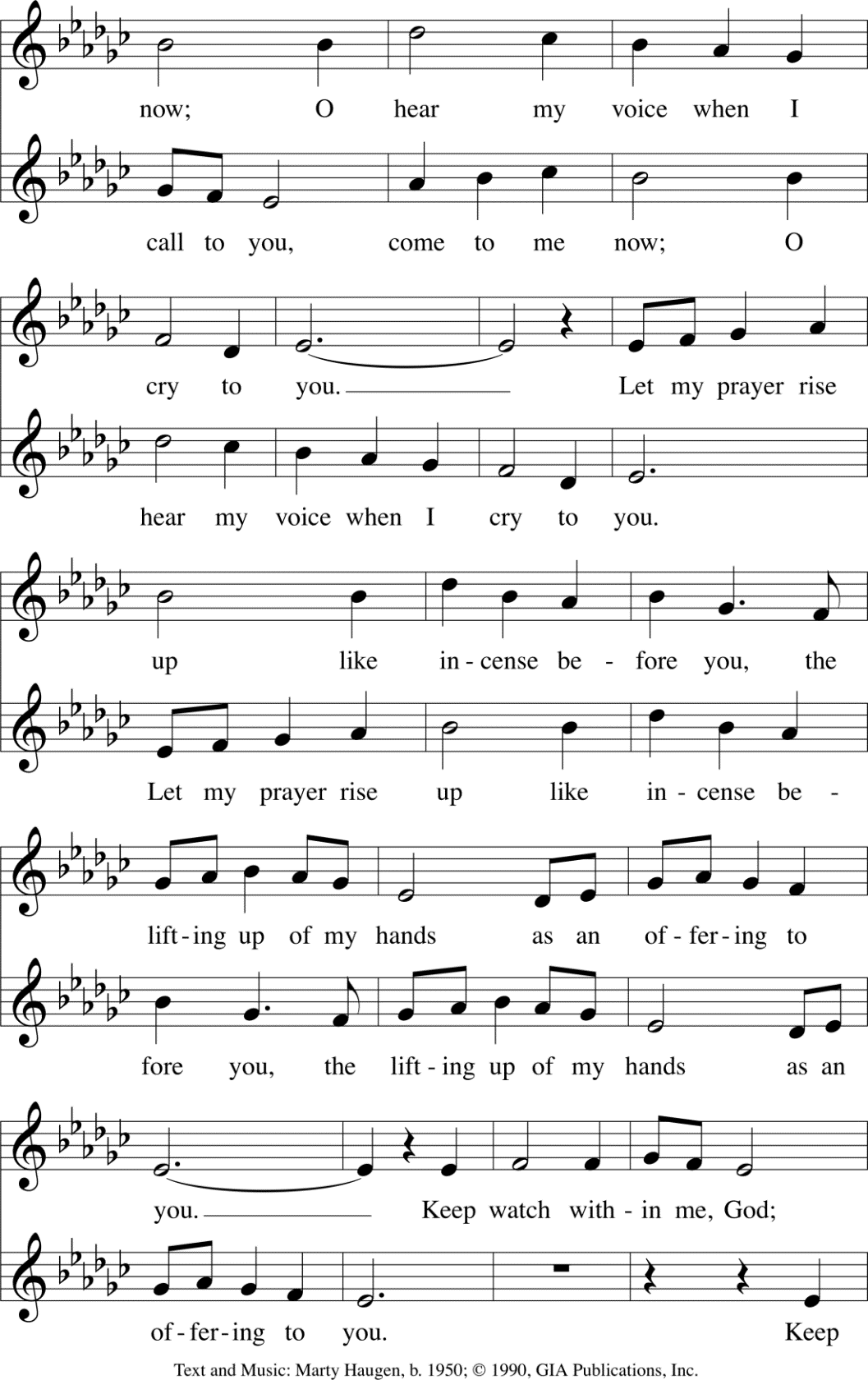
**EVENING THANKSGIVING**

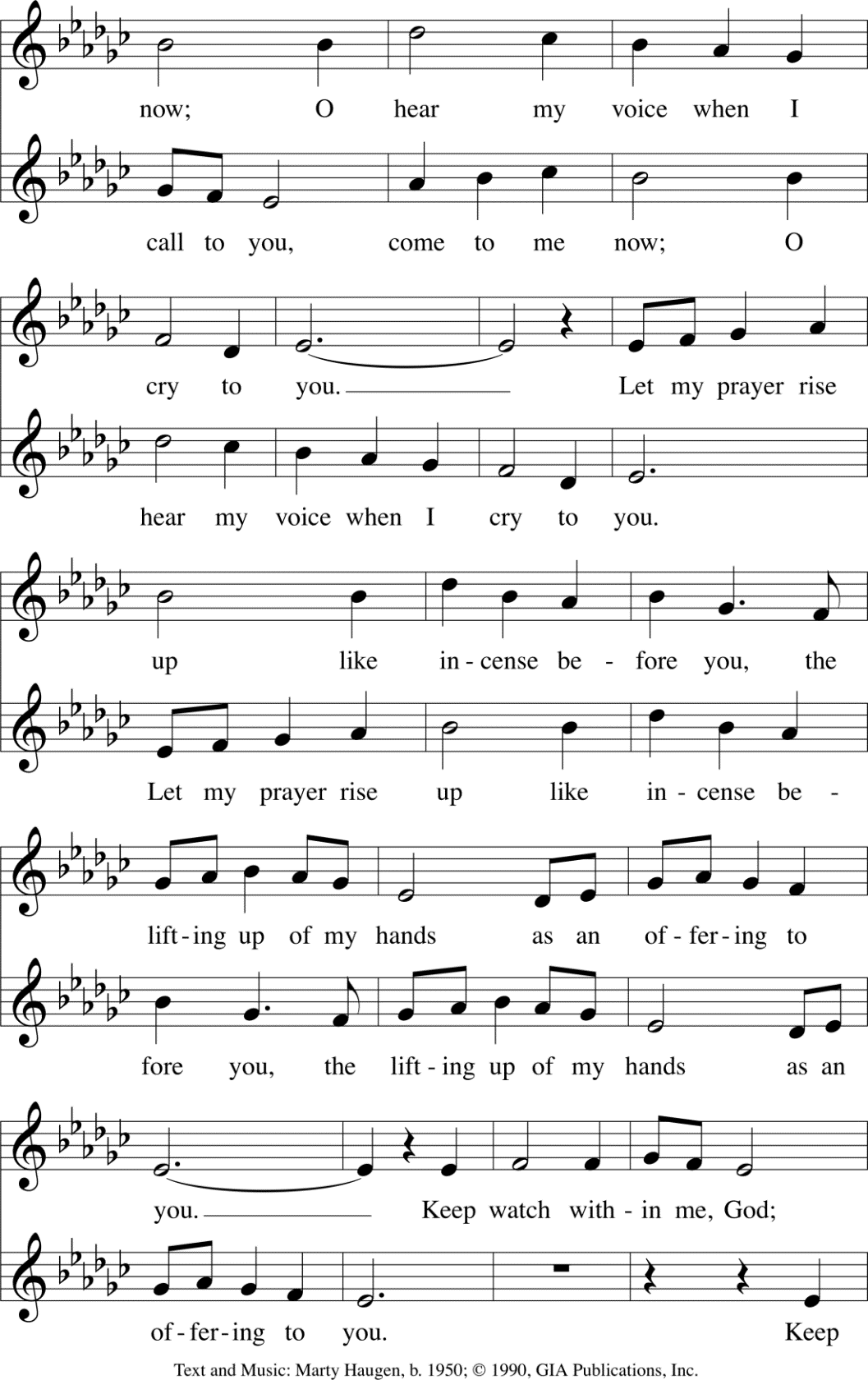


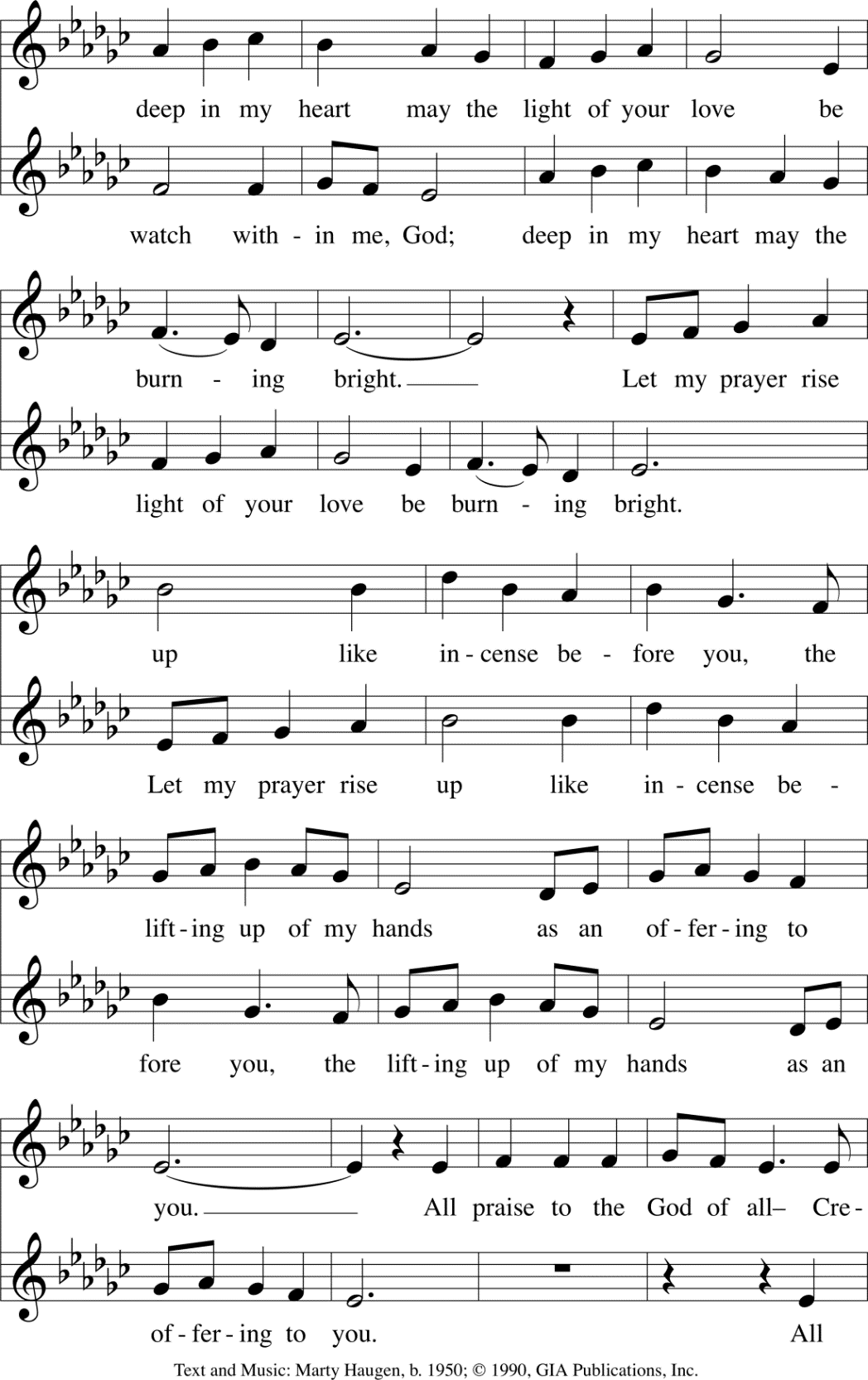
*Group One: Low Voices*

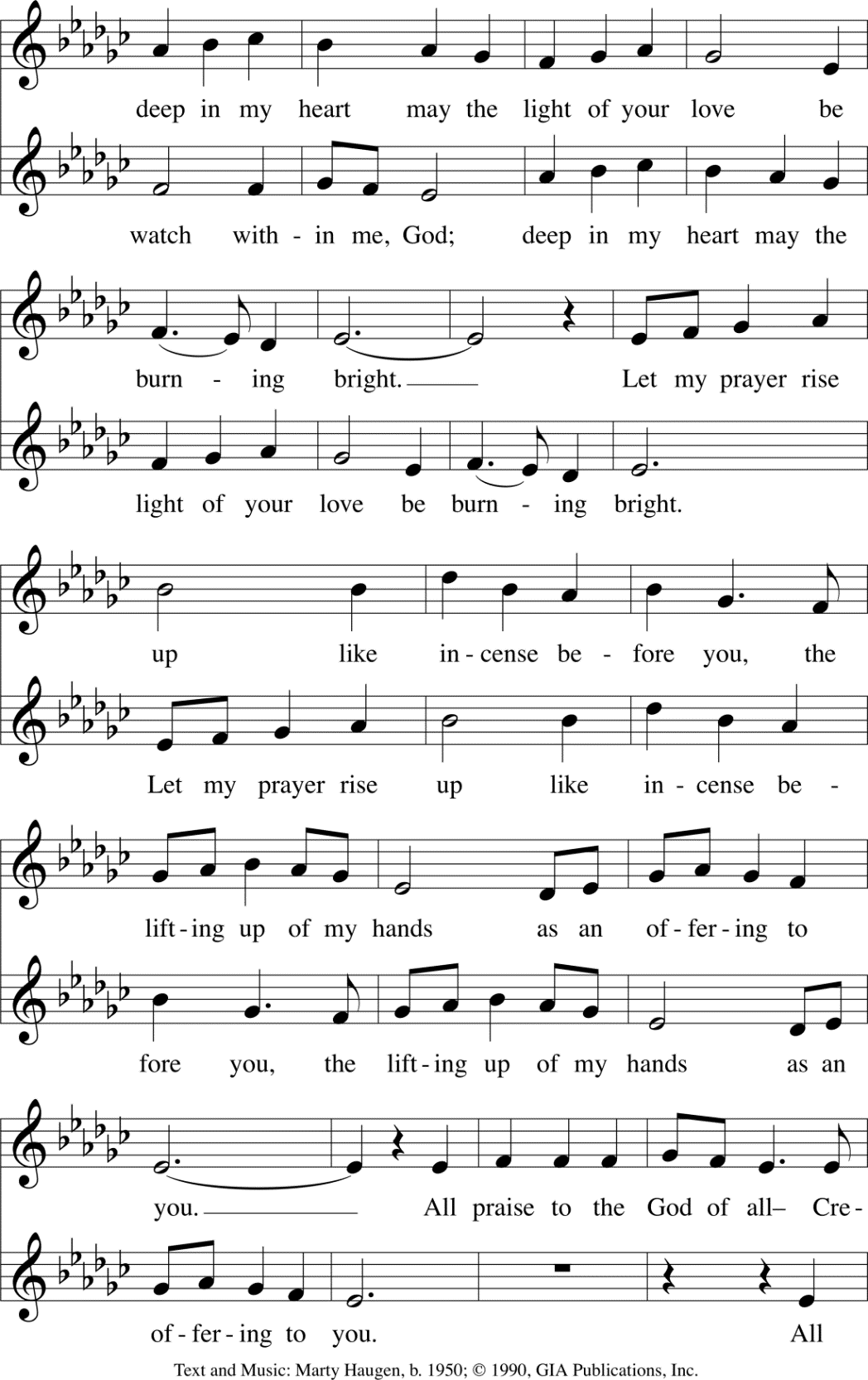
*Group Two: High Voices*

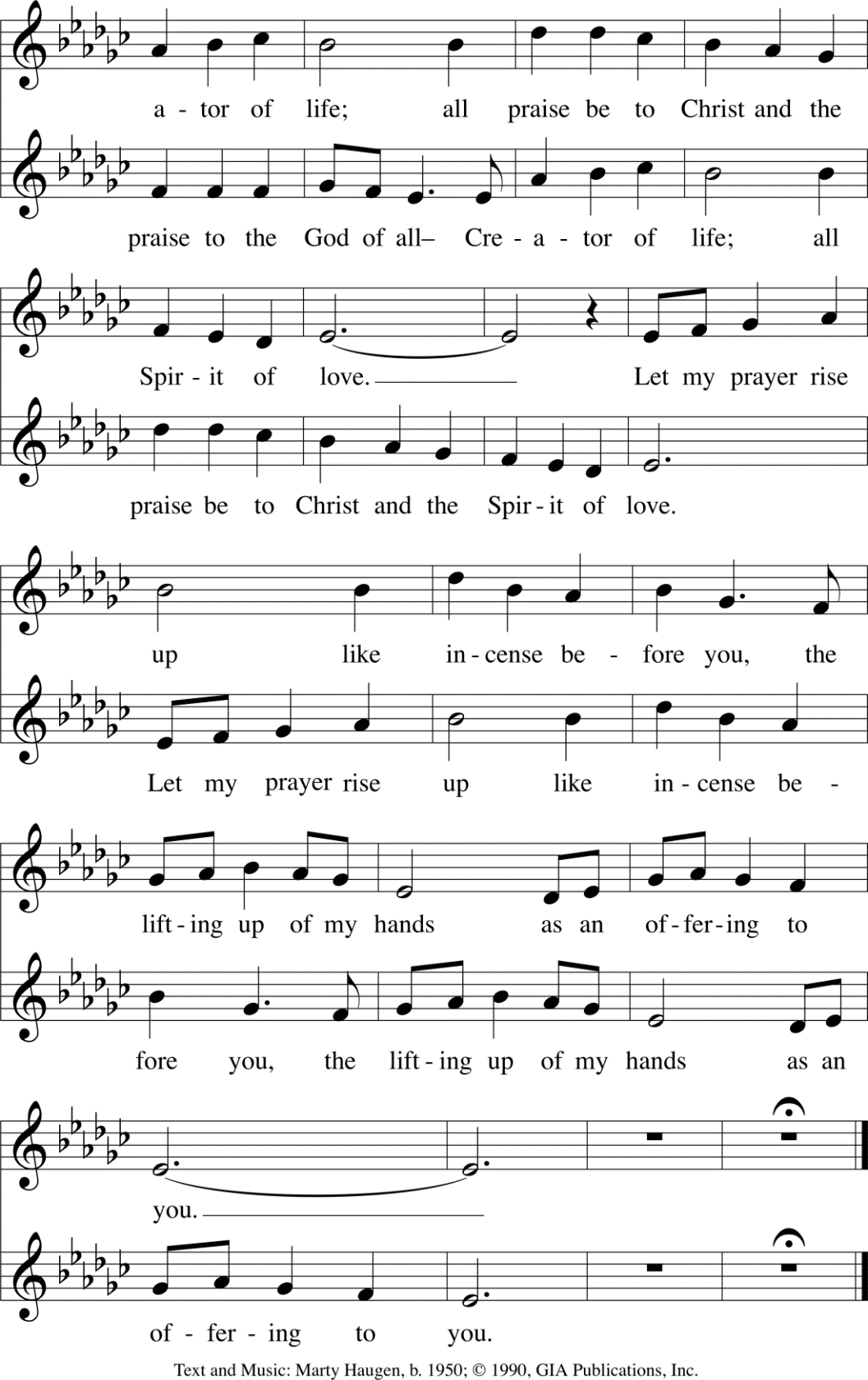
**PSALM 141**

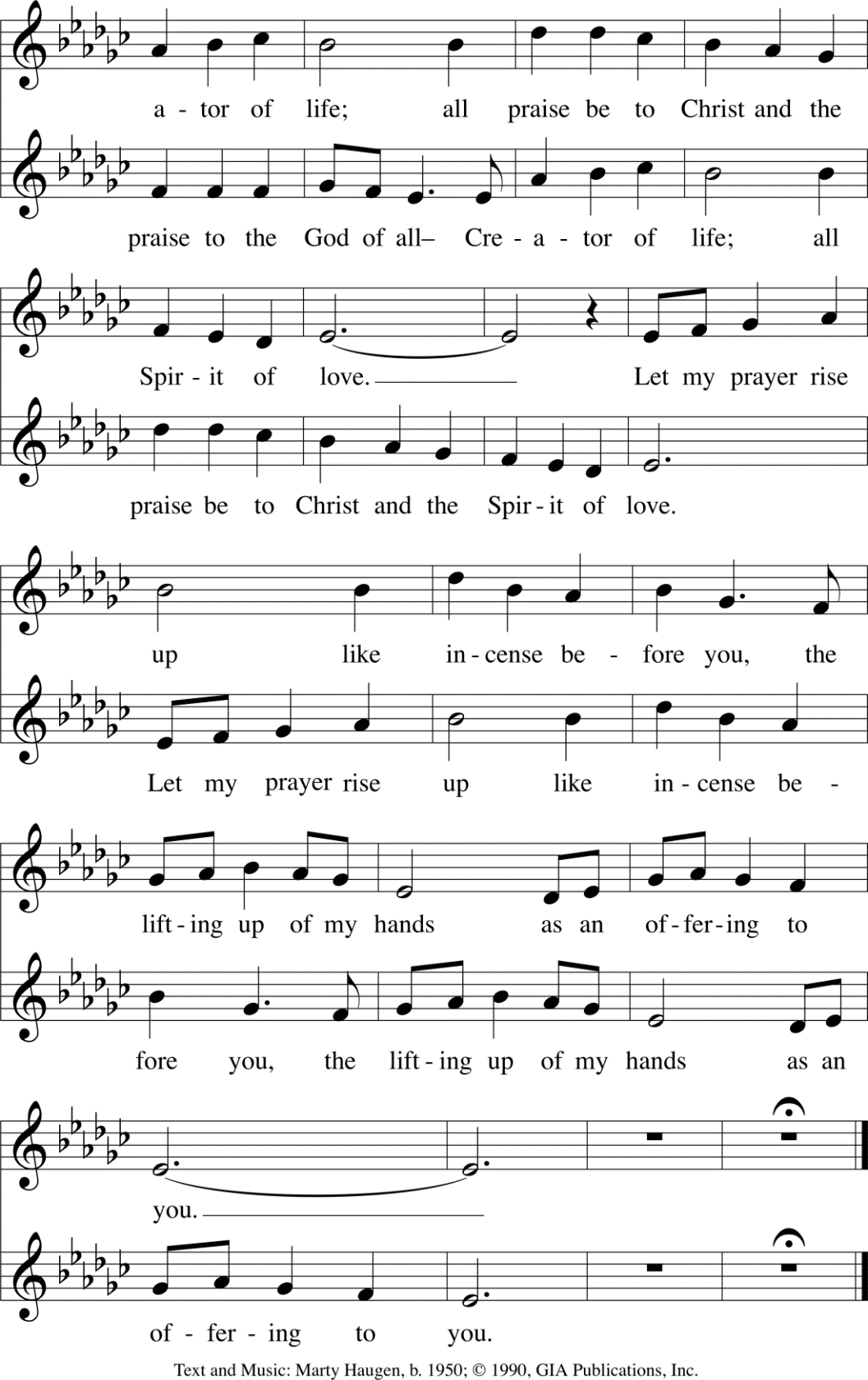












*Silence for Meditation*

**P** May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives.

C **Amen.**

**SILENCE**

**SCRIPTURE AND REFLECTION Isaiah 40:1-11**

C

omfort, O comfort my people, says your God. 2Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. 3A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." 6A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. 7The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. 8The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. 9Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" 10See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 11He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

**INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS AT THE ALTAR**

*You are invited at this time to come forward, light a candle and offer your prayers to God. Know that God hears you and listens to your requests, questions, thanks, joys and sorrows.*

*The service continues with the following responses which introduce the Annunciation:*

P The Light shines in the darkness C **and the darkness has not overcome it.**

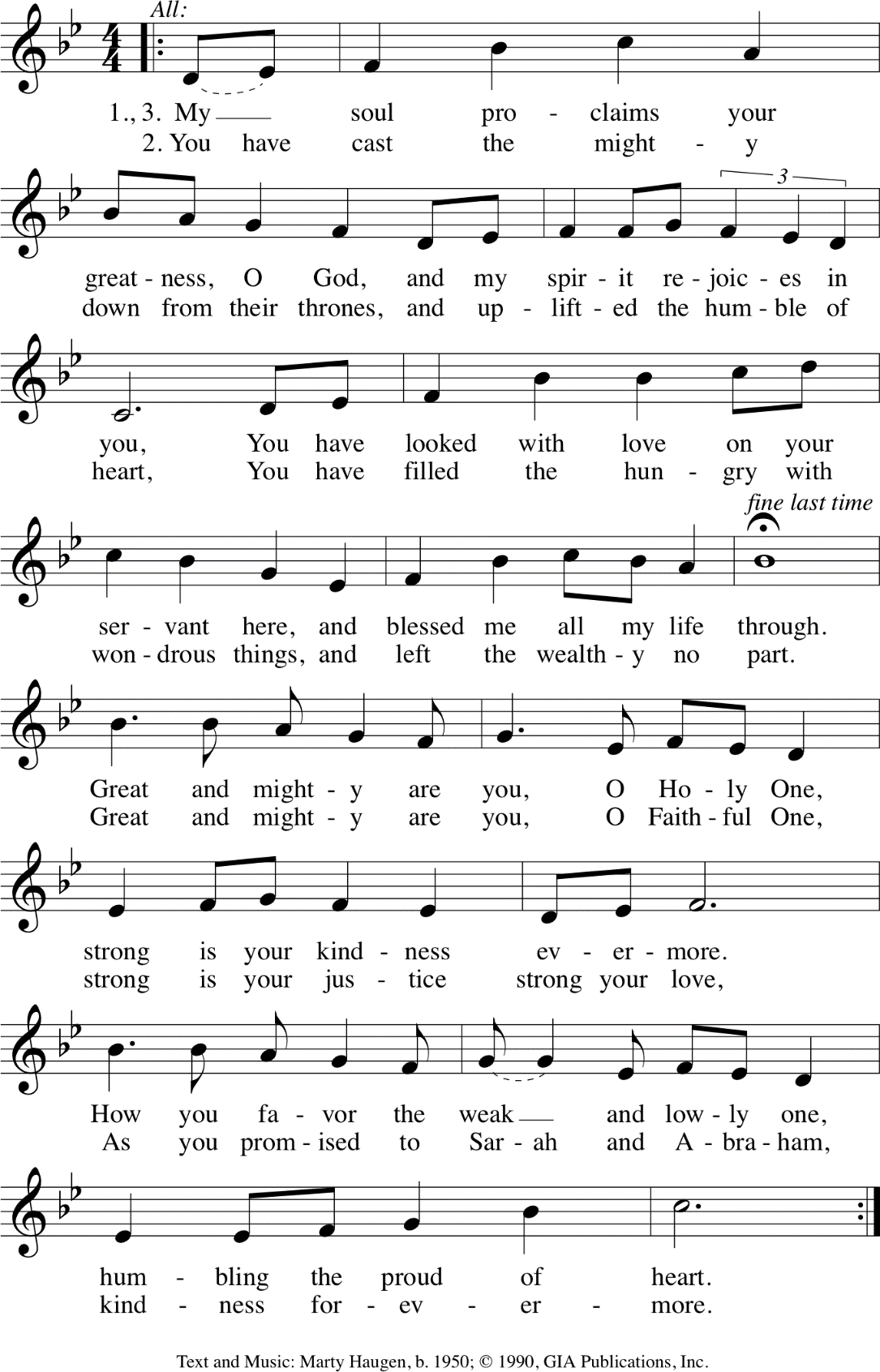
*(stand)*

**THE ANNUNCIATION** Luke 1:26-28, 30-32, 38

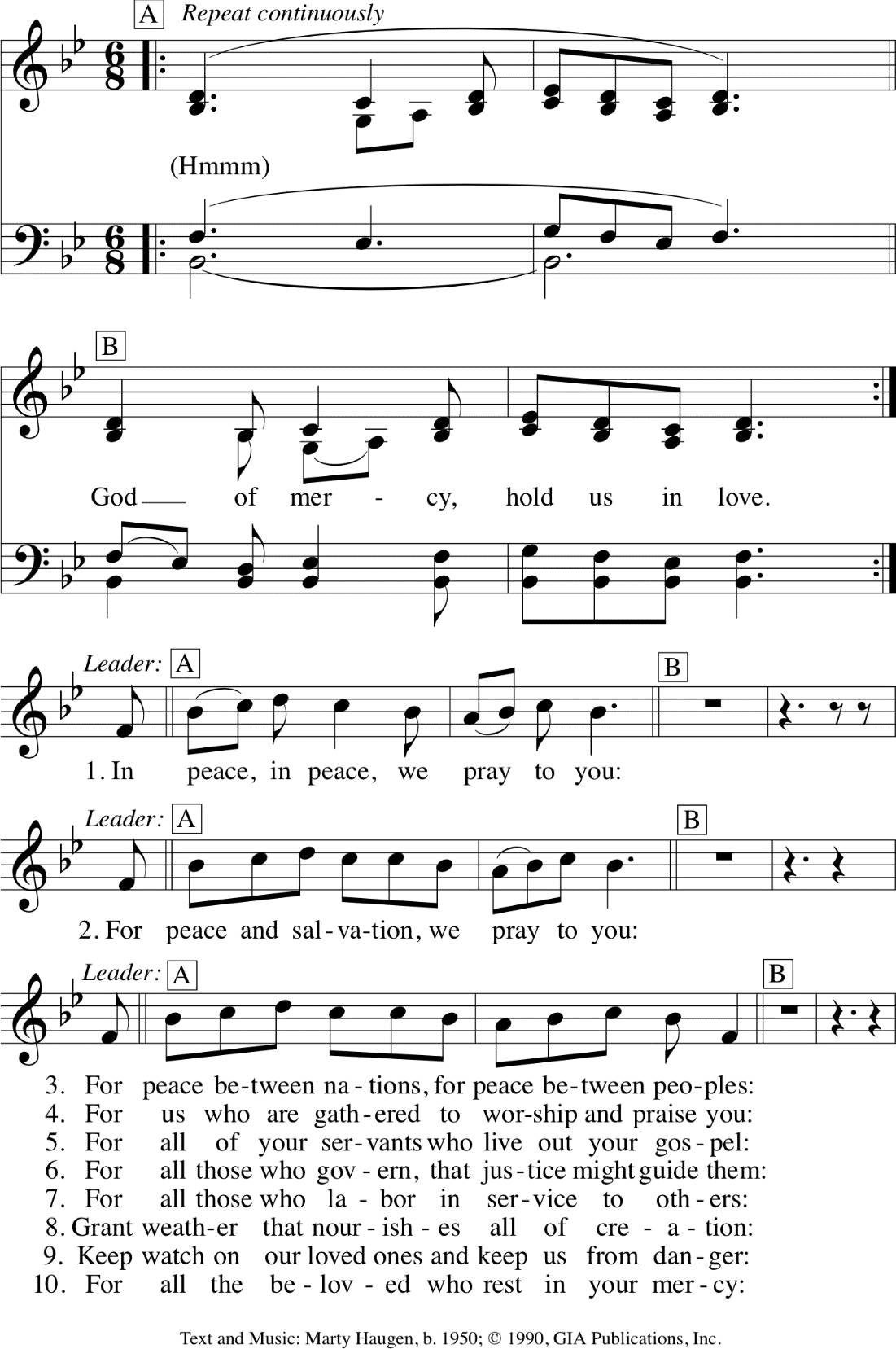
P An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, “Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High.” And Mary said, “I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will.”

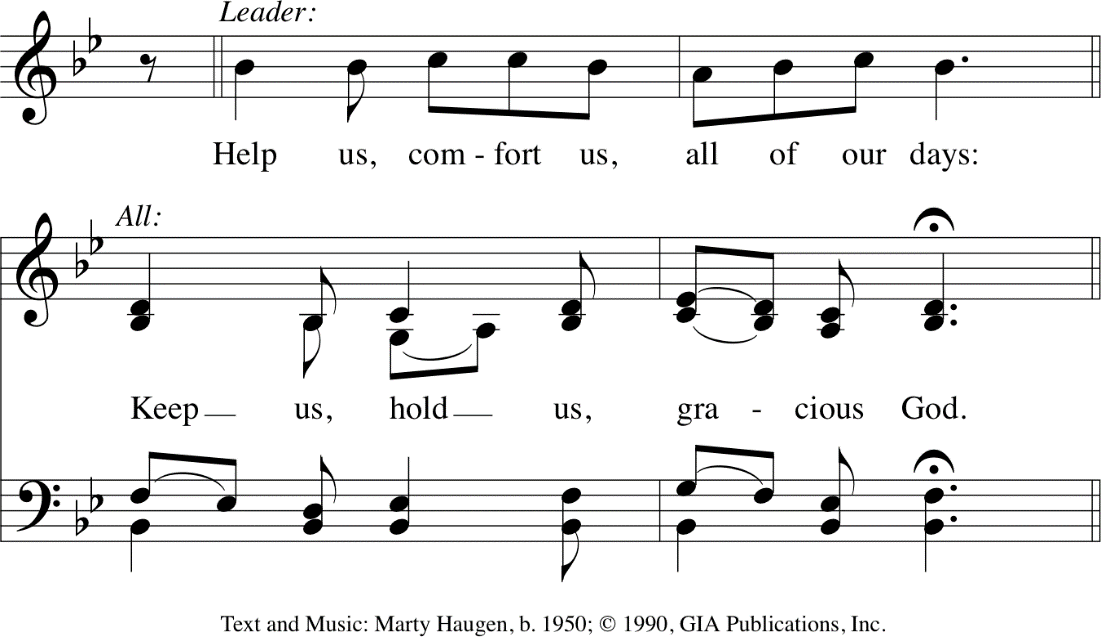
*(immediately to “The Magnificat”)*

**THE MAGNIFICAT** Luke 1:46-55

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**PRAYERS**

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P Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding and the will to live your Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C**Amen.**

P God, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:

C **Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

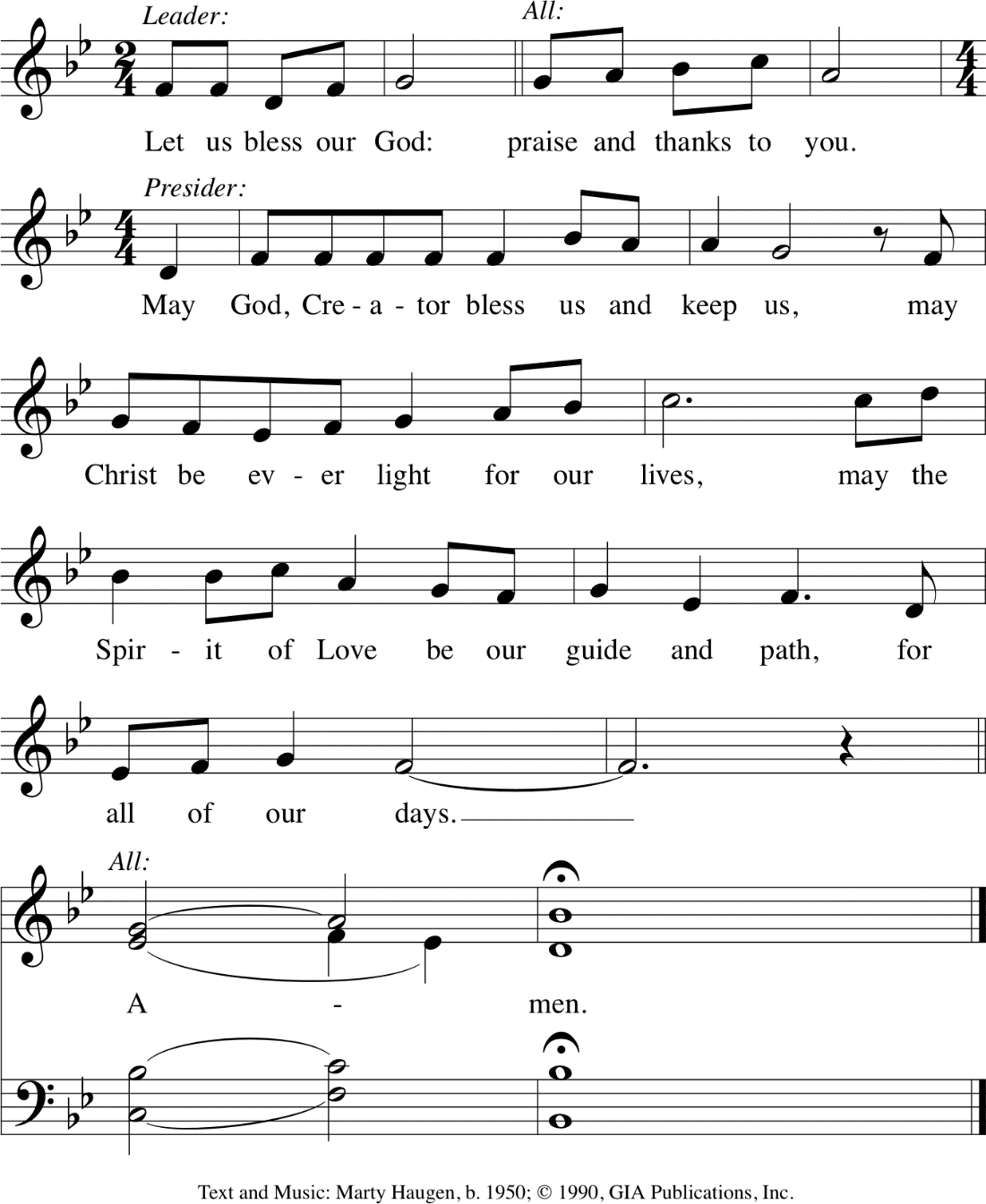
**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

*(sit)*

**FINAL BLESSING**



*depart in silence*



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Wednesdays, December 20

Lunch: 11:00 AM – Noon

Supper: 5:00 – 6:30 PM

Worship: 6:30 PM

Weekend Worship Times

Saturdays: 5:00 PM

Sundays: 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Please Note: Sunday, December 24, no 11:00 AM worship service

Candlelight Carol Service

Saturday, December 16, 5:00 PM

Children’s Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17, 9:00 AM

December 24

Advent 4: 9:00 (no 11:00 AM)

Christmas Eve: 4:00, 7:00, 11:00 PM

December 25

Christmas Day: 10:00 AM